

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element projecting from the fork tube and disposed within the support tube; and

a linkage element disposed within the support tube,

wherein the linkage element is moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube and comprises at least one stop surface for limiting a rotation of the fork tube when the latch element contacts the at least one stop surface.

2. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the linkage element further comprises at least one locking element for locking the fork tube in a single position.

3. The steering head of claim 2, wherein the at least one locking element releasably engages the latch element when the fork tube is locked.

4. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the latch element comprises a pin.

5. The steering head of claim 4, wherein the pin projects substantially perpendicular to the axis of the fork tube.

6. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the linkage element comprises a substantially cylindrical shape.

7. The steering head of claim 6, wherein the linkage element comprises a plurality of hollow chambers separated by connecting walls.

8. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the support tube comprises an opening which allows a connecting element to pass therethrough.

9. The steering head of claim 8, wherein the opening comprises a longitudinal slot.

10. The steering head of claim 9, wherein the connecting element is secured to the linkage element.

11. The steering head of claim 10, wherein the movement of the linkage element is limited by the movement of the connecting element within the longitudinal slot.

12. The steering head of claim 10, further comprising a slide which is secured the connecting element, the slide being disposed adjacent an outer surface of the support tube.

13. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the at least one stop surface is disposed on at least one stop.

14. The steering head of claim 13, wherein the at least one stop comprises a projection which extends from the linkage element.

15. The steering head of claim 14, wherein the at least one stop comprises wedge-shaped hollow projection having two angled lateral stop surfaces.

16. The steering head of claim 13, wherein the at least one stop comprises two stops which are disposed opposite one another.

17. The steering head of claim 16, wherein each stop comprises wedge-shaped hollow projection having two angled lateral stop surfaces.

18. The steering head of claim 16, wherein the two stops define a limited range of rotational motion of the fork tube in each of a clockwise and a counter-clockwise direction.

19. The steering head of claim 18, wherein the limited range of motion in the clockwise direction is substantially equal to the range of motion in the counter-clockwise direction.

20. The steering head of claim 18, wherein the limited range of motion in one of the clockwise and counter-clockwise direction is approximately 45 degrees.

21. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the linkage element further comprises at least one locking element, the at least one locking element comprising at least one recess which is adapted to receive the latch element.

22. The steering head of claim 21, wherein the at least one recess is set back some distance from a surface of at least one stop.

23. The steering head of claim 21, wherein the at least one recess is centrally disposed between at least two stops.

24. The steering head of claim 1, further comprising an upper bearing disposed on one end of the support tube and a lower bearing disposed on another end of the support tube, each of the upper and lower bearings having an opening which allows the fork tube to pass therethrough.

25. The steering head of claim 1, wherein the steering head is disposed on a tricycle frame.

26. A vehicle steering head including a support tube which rotatably supports therein a fork tube to which a wheel fork and a handlebar can be secured, the steering head comprising:

a latch element disposed within the support tube, the latch element being moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube; and

a linkage element connected to the fork tube so as to rotate therewith, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface;

wherein the at least one stop surface limits the rotation of the fork tube with respect to the support tube.

27. The steering head of claim 26, further comprising a slide, wherein the slide is disposed within the support tube and retains the latch element.

28. The steering head of claim 27, wherein the slide further comprises at least one locking element for releasably securing the slide to the support tube.

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29. The steering head of claim 26, wherein the linkage element comprises a mudguard.

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30. The steering head of claim 29, wherein the mudguard is disposed between one end of the support tube and a wheel fork.

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31. The steering head of claim 26, wherein the latch element comprises a rod like member which is arranged substantially parallel to the axis of the fork tube.

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32. The steering head of claim 31, wherein the rod like member comprises one of a bolt and a pin.

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33. The steering head of claim 26, wherein the latch element is connected to a slide, the slide being disposed within the support tube.

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34. The steering head of claim 33, wherein the slide is moveable substantially parallel to the axis of the fork tube.

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35. The steering head of claim 33, wherein a locking element is connected to the slide.

36. The steering head of claim 26, further comprising a bearing support disposed on at least one end of the support tube.

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37. The steering head of claim 36, wherein the bearing support is disposed on a lower end of the support tube.

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38. The steering head of claim 36, further comprising a locking element disposed within the support tube, the locking element being insertable into a recess of the bearing support.

5 39. The steering head of claim 36, wherein the bearing support comprises at least one stop, the at least one stop comprising at least one surface which engages the linkage element.

40. The steering head of claim 38, wherein the at least one stop comprises a projection which engages a recess in the linkage element.

41. The steering head of claim 39, wherein the projection and the recess cooperate to limit the rotational movement of the fork tube within a desired range.

42. The steering head of claim 40, wherein the range of the rotational movement is limited by at least two stop surfaces.

43. The steering head of claim 41, wherein the at least two stop surfaces define a limited range of rotation in one of a clockwise and a counter-clockwise direction.

44. The steering head of claim 42, wherein the at least two stop surfaces define a limited range of rotation in each of a clockwise and a counter-clockwise direction.

45. The steering head of claim 42, wherein the limited range of rotation between the at least two stops is approximately 45 degrees.

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~~46~~. The steering head of claim 26, wherein the steering head is disposed on a tricycle frame.

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47. A vehicle steering head including a support tube and fork tube which is rotatably mounted with respect to the support tube, the steering head comprising:

- an upper bearing support disposed at an upper end of the support tube;
- a lower bearing support disposed at a lower end of the support tube;
- the fork tube comprising a fork end, a handlebar, and a latch element projecting from the fork tube between the fork end and the handlebar end, the latch element being disposed within the support tube;
- a linkage element slidable disposed within the support tube, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface for engaging the latch element;
- wherein the linkage element is moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube from a first position where the latch element and the at least one stop cooperate to limit the rotational movement of the fork tube to a second position where the latch element releasably engages a locking element disposed on the linkage element whereby the fork tube is prevented from rotating in any direction.

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~~48~~. The steering head of claim ⁴⁶~~47~~, wherein the linkage element is moveable from outside the support tube via a slide.

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~~49~~. The steering head of claim ⁴⁷~~48~~, wherein the slide is connected to the linkage element via a connection element, the connection element passing through a longitudinal in the support tube.

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50. The steering head of claim ⁴⁸49, wherein the longitudinal slot limits the movement of the linkage element.

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51. A vehicle steering head including a support tube and fork tube which is rotatably mounted with respect to the support tube, the steering head comprising:
an upper bearing support disposed at an upper end of the support tube;
a lower bearing support disposed at a lower end of the support tube, the lower bearing support comprising at least one stop surface;
the fork tube comprising a fork end, a handlebar, and a latch element which is slidably disposed adjacent the fork tube between the fork end and the handlebar end, the latch element being disposed within the support tube;
a linkage element moveably disposed adjacent the lower support bearing, the linkage element comprising at least one stop surface for engaging the at least one stop surface of the lower bearing support and comprising a recess for receiving the latch element;
wherein the linkage element is moveable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube from a first position where the latch element engages only the lower bearing support and where the at least one stop of the lower bearing support cooperates with the at least one stop of the linkage element to limit the rotational movement of the fork tube to a second position where the latch element releasably engages a recess in the linkage element whereby the fork tube is prevented from rotating in any direction.

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52. The steering head of claim 51, wherein the linkage element is moveable from outside the support tube via a slide.

53. The steering head of claim 52, wherein the slide is connected to the linkage element via a connection element, the connection element passing through a longitudinal in the support tube.

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54. The steering head of claim 53, wherein the longitudinal slot limits the movement of the linkage element.

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~~55. The steering head of claim 51, wherein the linkage element further comprises at least one locking element for engaging a locking recess in the lower bearing support.~~

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~~56. The steering head of claim 55, wherein the at least one locking element engages the locking recess of the lower bearing support when the latch element engages the recess in the linkage element.~~

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57. A vehicle steering head comprising:

a fork tube adapted to engage a handlebar;

a support tube which rotatably supports the fork tube;

a latch element disposed within the support tube; and

a slide which is moveable with respect to the support tube,

wherein the slide is moveable from at least one position wherein linkage element prevents the fork tube from rotating with respect to the support tube to at least another position wherein the linkage element allows the fork tube to rotate with respect to the support tube in at least two directions.

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~~58~~. The steering head of claim ⁵⁶~~57~~, wherein the latch element comprises a rod-like member.

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